It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to undertaken preparedness and mitigation measures besides measures for response and relief after natural disasters. However, the concerned Ministries.of the Government of India keep in constant touch with the State Government and wherever required provide necessary logistic and financial support at the national level.

(c) An inter-Ministerial central Team visited Assam to assess the situation and the requirement of funds for the floods of 2003. Keeping in view the report of the Central Team, and the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group thereon, the requirement of funds for relief was assessed at Rs. 70.72 crore. However, it was noted that an amount of Rs. 158.61 crore was already available with the State Government in the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to which the Central Government contributes 75%. No further assistance was therefore required to be released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund. The State Government was requested to undertake relief measures for the flood affected people out of the CRF

Freedom fighter's pensions to Satyagrahis in Goa during 1954-55

839. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to sanction Pension to persons from Maharashtra and other States for offering Satyagraha in Goa during 1954-55;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any Government records prove the participation of these people, selected for pensions, in the Satyagraha;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the basis on which these people are selected for the pension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to grant pension, to the Satyagrahis of the States of Manarashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, under the Scheme of "Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980" for their participation during the Phase-ll of the Goa Liberation Movement(1954-55).

(c) to (e) Records regarding participation of these Satyagrahis in the Phase-ll of the Goa Liberation Movement are available with the respective State Governments. The basis on which these persons are selected for grant of central pension is that they should have been granted pension by the respective State Governments as on 1.8.2002 for their participation in the Phase-ll of the Goa Liberation Movement 1954-55).

Atrocities on SCs/STs

†840. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a rise in the incidents of murder and atrocities on Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes in the States of Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Uttar Pradesh for last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the State-wise and year-wise details of the atrocities committed especially in terms of murder and arson on them during the last three years; and

(c) the action being taken by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The details of State-wise, year-wise and head-wise crimes including murder and arson committed against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) during 2000 to 2002 are at Annexure. [See Appendix 200, Annexure 6]

(c) The details of the action taken by the Government to check such incidents are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Measures taken by the Government to check crimes and atrocities committed against SCs/STs. 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Constitution and the primary responsibility of detection, registration, investigation and prosecution as well as prevention of crime lies with the State Governments. The Ministry of Home Affairs, however, has been advising the State Governments from time to time to give more focussed attention to improve the administration of the criminal justice system and to ensure prevention of atrocities against SCs and STs and other vulnerable sections of society. The State Governments/UT Administrations have also been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.